

Application No. 10/536,978
Amendment of February 17, 2009
Response to Office Action of November 17, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cooling system for cooling a keg containing an alcohol beverage, the cooling system comprising:

a thermal bridge adapted to contact a surface portion of the keg and having a cavity filled with a cooling solution, said cooling solution is a mixture of water, 5% by volume glycol, and a corrosion inhibitor; and

a cooling device adapted to chill the thermal bridge, including the cooling solution in the cavity for extracting heat from and for cooling the alcoholic beverage contained in the keg when the keg is mounted in heat transfer relation with the thermal bridge.

2. (Original) A cooling system according to Claim 1 wherein the cooling solution is chilled to the extent it has a latent heat cooling capacity.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A cooling system for cooling a keg containing an alcohol beverage, the cooling system comprising:

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a thermal bridge adapted to contact a surface portion of the keg and the thermal bridge having a cavity filled with a cooling solution comprising a mixture of water, 5% by volume glycol, and a corrosion inhibitor~~and glycol~~; and

a cooling device adapted to chill the thermal bridge, including the cooling solution in the cavity, so as to produce a latent heat cooling capacity in the thermal bridge for cooling the alcohol beverage contained in the keg when the keg is mounted in heat transfer relation with the thermal bridge.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The cooling system of Claim 4 wherein the solution is cooled to form ice.

8. (Original) The cooling system of Claim 4 wherein the cooling device has a Peltier thermoelectric cooling unit that has a cool surface portion in heat transfer contact with the thermal bridge and that has a hot surface portion in heat transfer contact with a heat sink.

9. (Original) The cooling system of Claim 8 wherein the cooling device further includes a fan for directing air flow across the heat sink.

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10. (Original) The cooling system of Claim 4 wherein the thermal bridge comprises a cooling plate adapted to contact a bottom surface portion of the keg.

11. (Original) The cooling system of Claim 4 wherein the cooling device further includes an active heat sink adapted to remove heat from the thermal bridge and to dissipate heat transferred through the thermal bridge from the alcohol beverage in the keg.

12. (Currently Amended) A home beer dispensing apparatus having a cooling system for cooling a keg containing beer, the cooling system comprising:

a thermal bridge adapted to contact a surface portion of the keg and the thermal bridge having a reservoir filled with a cooling solution comprising a mixture of water, 5% by volume glycol, and a corrosion inhibitor and glycol; and;

a cooling device adapted to chill the thermal bridge, including the cooling solution in the reservoir, so as to produce a latent heat cooling capacity in the thermal bridge for cooling the beer contained in the keg when the keg is mounted in heat transfer relation with the thermal bridge.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Original) The dispensing apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the solution is cooled to form ice.

16. (Original) The dispensing apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the cooling device has a Peltier thermoelectric cooling unit that has a cool surface portion in heat transfer contact with the thermal bridge and that has a hot surface portion in heat transfer contact with a heat sink.

17. (Original) The dispensing apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the cooling device further includes a fan for directing air flow across the heat sink.

18. (Original) The dispensing apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the thermal bridge comprises a cooling plate adapted to contact a bottom surface portion of the keg.

19. (Original) The dispensing apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the cooling device further includes an active heat sink adapted to remove heat from the thermal bridge and to dissipate heat transferred through the thermal bridge from the beer in the keg.

20-84. (Withdrawn)